

**FMERPA VETERANS & RETIREES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**May 4, 2007**  
**Freeholders' Conference Room**  
**Hall of Records**  
**Freehold, NJ 07728**

The meeting was called to order at 2:35PM on Friday, May 4, 2007, by Chairperson Freeholder Lillian Burry.

Members Present:

Mrs. Burry, Mr. Allen, Mr. Sfayer, Ms. Cannon, Mr. Riordan, & Mr. Foster.

Guests:

Candace Muller, Aide to Congressman Chris Smith & JJ Mistretta, concerned resident

Freeholder Burry introduced the minutes from the February 23, 2007 meeting, which were read and approved. Motion to approve minutes was offered by Mr. Sfayer and second by Mr. Allen.

Freeholder Burry explained that because this committee does not have a federal sponsor for its NOI, the committee must pursue its plans through the "back door", by building positive public opinion and continued efforts to gather congressional support. Freeholder Burry presented a map of Fort Monmouth to enforce the positive location of the clinic facility, and its accessibility from outside the Fort. She also distributed two news paper articles from the NY Times and Star Ledger which enforce the need for the Patterson facility to remain open and available to our veterans returning from Iraq. Mr. Sfayer stated that many of our soldiers are suffering severely from depression and post traumatic stress, because their tours in Iraq have been extended. Freeholder Burry advised the committee that she is in receipt of a letter from Col. Jeff Cantor, currently on active status, supporting the committee's efforts to save the clinic.

Mrs. Burry had a conference with Congressman Chris Smith and Secretary of the Navy Wayne Army and enlisted their unqualified support for our veterans.

Freeholder Burry directed the discussion to the NOI that has been presented by the Monmouth County Parks System, which has received full support from the Department of the Interior. The plan has been very well received, but she stressed the need for all towns to get on and stay on board with the current NOI. She explained that Faith Hahn, from Parks is arranging a meeting with one representative from each of the municipalities involved to prepare the final phase of our application.

Ellen Stein, from the State Department of Military Affairs, was not present, but the committee recapped that the NOI for Veterans' Haven II was not presented as site specific and didn't target the hospital as part of its plan, allowing this committee to pursue its plans.

Col. Jim Sfayer presented his report to the committee, explaining the costs to "rebuild" Fort Monmouth on the base in Aberdeen, Md. He noted that a few members of Congress are aware of the plight of our soldiers and the increase need for services as they return home. He envisions a larger and more updated facility at Fort Monmouth that will better serve our returning vets.

Mr. Allen reported an increased interest to form a public/private relationship to provide goods and services at Patterson. He has been in contact with Atlantic Health Care and has received positive response.

Mr. Foster will reach out to St. Barnabas and report his findings to the committee.

Freeholder Burry will notify the committee of the next meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50PM.